

Message Text

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TAGS: EGEN, FR

SUBJECT: FRENCH LABELLING LAW

REF: PARIS 30617 AND 34697, STATE 281586

1. COMMENTS AND REQUESTS REGARDING LABELLING LAW HAVE BEEN
RECEIVED FROM FOLLOWING US MANUFACTURERS AND TRADE ASSOCIA-
TIONS.

A. VARIAN, MANUFACTURER OF HIGHLY SPECIALIZED CAPITAL
EQUIPMENT SUCH AS CHEMICAL ANALYTICAL INSTRUMENTS AND
MINICOMPUTERS, AND ELECTRONIC COMPONENTS SUCH AS POWER
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TUBES AND SEMI-CONDUCTORS, REQUESTS THAT ITS PRODUCTS BE
EXEMPT FROM LAW BECAUSE EQUIPMENT IT SELLS IN FRANCE IS
USED BY INDUSTRIAL, SCIENTIFIC, MEDICAL AND MILITARY
CUSTOMERS WHO ARE ABLE TO HANDLE ACCOMPANYING LITERATURE;
AND ITS ANNUAL SALES IN FRANCE CONSIST OF A SMALL NUMBER OF
UNITS, EACH ACCOMPANIED BY EXTENSIVE LITERATURE.

TRANSLATIONS WOULD ADVERSELY AFFECT COST/BENEFIT RATIO DUE TO LOW VOLUME OF SALES RELATIVE TO HIGH COST OF TRANSLATION.

B. BERTRAM YACHT DIVISION OF WHITTAKER CORPORATION, WHICH SELLS FIVE YACHTS A YEAR IN FRANCE, IS ALSO CONCERNED ABOUT THE COST ASPECT AND REQUESTS THAT ITS MANUAL BE

EXEMPT.

C. MOST COMMENTS ARE FROM US MANUFACTURERS OF CONSTRUCTION AND INDUSTRIAL PLYWOOD: BRAND S, WEYERHAUSER, BOISE CASCADE, AND AMERICAN PLYWOOD ASSOCIATION ALL REQUEST EXEMPTION BECAUSE LAW WOULD OTHERWISE VOID BASIC IDENTIFICATION SYSTEM FOR PLYWOOD WHICH INCLUDES CODED SYMBOLS FOR GRADES OF VENEER, TYPE OF GLUE, TYPE OF WOOD IN FACE, BACK AND INNER PLIES, ETC.

D. MURRAY OHIO MANUFACTURING, WHICH SELLS LAWN MOWERS IN FRANCE, REQUESTS MINIMUM DELAY OF APPLICATION UNTIL MAY TO ALLOW TIME FOR TRANSLATION OF 30-PAGE MANUAL.

E. MINNESOTA WORLD TRADE ASSOCIATION ASKS WHO WOULD BE RESPONSIBLE FOR PRODUCT LIABILITY AND/OR WARRANTIES IF FRENCH TRANSLATION AND LABELLING IS DONE BY SOMEONE OTHER THAN THE MANUFACTURER.

2. EMBASSY SHOULD DISCUSS THE FOREGOING WITH THE HAUT COMITE AND SEEK A GRACE PERIOD OF FOUR MONTHS. POUCH TO STATE AND COMMERCE THE TEXT OF REGULATIONS IMPLEMENTING THE LABELLING LAW AS SOON AS THEY ARE APPROVED. EMBASSY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SHOULD ALSO SUBMIT A NOTE TO THE FOREIGN MINISTRY COVERING THE FOLLOWING POINTS: THE USG APPRECIATES THE OPPORTUNITY PROVIDED BY THE HAUT COMITE DE LA LANGUE FRANCAISE TO COMMENT ON LAW 75-1349 ON THE USE OF THE FRENCH LANGUAGE, AND HAS CONVEYED TO THE HAUT COMITE THE COMMENTS AND REQUESTS OF SEVERAL US COMPANIES AND TRADE ASSOCIATIONS; THE US IS CONCERNED, HOWEVER, THAT ITS LEGITIMATE TRADE INTERESTS MAY NOT BE FULLY TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT, SINCE IT WILL NOT HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO COMMENT ON THE IMPLEMENTING REGULATIONS; AND US TRUSTS THAT THE REGULATIONS WILL ALLOW FOR ADEQUATE EXCEPTIONS AND REASONABLE CONDITIONS OF COMPLIANCE, AND THAT THEY WILL BE GENERALLY ADMINISTERED TO AVOID UNREASONABLE OBSTACLES TO TRADE.
ROBINSON

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